Minister of West Bengal on 4.6.2001. During the courtesy call, the Chief Minister of West Bengal enquired about the proposal for closure of loss making mines in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL). The Chairman, CIL informed him that there was no change in the earlier proposal of closure of mines in ECL.

Mine accidents in rainy season

† 319. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more accidents take place in coal mines during the rainy season; and

(b) if so, what precautions Government have taken so far for avoiding accidents in the coal mines in the rainy season this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir. No definite seasonal pattern in discerned regarding the occurrence of accidents in coal mines of CIL, which can be seen from the following table:-

Year	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December
1996	32	23	20	21
1997	29	26	22	22
1998	20	23	26	22
1999	20	24	25	25
2000	24	19	20	16
TOTAL	125	115	113	106

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to part 'a' of the questionabove,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.